THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. The number of theft/pilferage cases of consignments booked with Railways during the last financial year (1990-91) were 20188 as compared to 23773 during 1989-90 and 26627 in 1988-89.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Filling up of Posts of Assistant legal Adviser in the Railways

3023. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have invited applications to fill up some posts of Assistant Legal Adviser, if so, what is the number of posts indicating the break up of roster points and the number of applications received therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a few candidates were considered suitable for the post, if so, the details of the candidates interviewed and empanelled; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that names of some suitable Scheduled Caste candidates were also sent to the UPSC but they were not called for the interview, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) In December, 1988, applications were invited to fill up the only post of Assistant Legal Adviser, Railway Board. As the post is filled up by the combined method of 'transfer on deputation or promotion', reservation rules are not applicable. In all, 6 applications including that of a Scheduled Caste Officer were received, which were forwarded to UPSC for consideration. Out of this, only 3 candidates belonging to general category, were considered eligible by UPSC. The Departmental candidate was selected by UPSC for promotion to the post of Assistant Legal Adviser, Railway Board. The UPSC did not conduct interview of the eligible candidates.

Platforms at Shivaji Bridge and Tilak Bridge

3024. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present covered sheds on the platforms at Shivaji Bridge and Tilak Bridge Stations in Delhi are inadequate for the passengers in Summer and Rainy seasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): No, Sir.

Unauthorised Hawking of Books and Magazines on the Platforms

3025. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Divisional Railway Manager, New Delhi has stated in his letter No. 23AC/179/NDLAS|MS|P. I dated 17th May, 1990 that the unauthorised hawking of Books and Magazines on the Platforms of New Delhi Station is going on under the shelter of GRP; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) It was suggested in the letter No. 23-AC/179/NDLS|MSP-I dated the 17th May, 1990 that to reduce unauthorised hawking, additional tables may be permitted at New Delhi Station. Subsequently, however, the matter was reviewed and this proposal was dropped and a sustained drive has been launched by the Railways to curb the unauthorised hawking at this station.

Facilities of free railway pass etc. to Retiring Railway Employees

3026. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that free Railway pass facilities are also available to

those Railway employees who retired with Provident Fund facilities;

(b) whether ex-gratia pension is also payable to the widows of the said employees;

(c) if so, whether such passes are also proposed to be issued to such widows; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Post-retirement Complimentary Passes are granted to eligible retired Railway employees and there is no distinction between those who retire under the Pension Scheme or the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme.

(b) Ex-gratia payment at the rate of Rs. 150/- p.m., together with dearness relief thereon, is admissible with effect from 1-1-1986 to widows of Railway employees who retired or died before 1-1-1986 while being governed under the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme.

(c) and (d) As per the extent Scheme, only widows of Railway employees who were/are in service on or after 12-3-1987 and expire after that date are eligible for Complimentary Passes. Hence, widows of those Railway employees who ceased to be in service prior to 12-3-1987 are not eligible for Complimentary Passes. In this scheme also there is no distinction between widows of Pension retirees and the retirees under the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme.

Parity between service conditions of Government employees and Railway Personnel

3027. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a parity between the service conditions of government employees and the railway personnel and whether pensionary benefits in the form of ex-gratia payment is available to them also;

(b) whether the serving as well as retired railway personnel enjoy the facility of free railway passes and whether this facility was available to them even at the time when on retirement they were entitled to the provident fund benefits only and not to any pensionary benefits;

(c) whether Government propose to extend free railway passes to the serving and the retired employees of the other Government Departments also similar to those of railway personnel; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) As far as pay scales and certain allowances like H.R.A./C.C.A. are concerned, there is certain commonality between Central Government employees and railway employees. As regards other issues Railway Ministry generally adopts the instructions of nodal Ministries like Finance/Department of Personnel and Training/Ministry of Health etc.

Pensionary benefit in the form of ex-gratia payment to Contributory Provident Fund retirees has neither been sanctioned for Government Employees nor for Railway employees.

(b) Serving Railway employees are granted Privilege Passes as per their entitlement and the eligible retired Railway employees are granted Post-retirement Complimentary Passes, as per the prescribed scale.

This is not linked to retirement of such employees under Pension or Contributory Provident Fund Scheme, as the case may be.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Other Government employees are governed by the Leave Travel Concession Scheme applicable to them.